INTRODUCTION OF DR. REID MORAN

by Dr. John H. Thomas

as the featured speaker at the Annual Dinner Meeting of the California Botanical Society, Inc., on Saturday evening, February 19, 1977 in Emeryville, California.[1]

It is indeed a pleasure to be allowed to introduce our speaker, Dr. Reid Venable Moran. He is the third in a row of distinguished speakers at our annual dinner meetings from the land to which all our water flows. Last year, as you will recall, Dr. Harlan Lewis spoke to us, and the year before that, Dr. Sherwin Carlquist.

Reid is indeed in need . . . of introduction.

He was born, went to Stanford and received his A.B. degree in 1939. Cornell University with an M.S. in 1942 was next. World War II saw Dr. Moran as a stout defender of democracy in many parts of the world and in many heroic situations. After that, he continued his formal education at the University of California, Berkeley, and received his Ph.D. in 1951.

His dissertation was "A Revision of *Dudleya* Crassulaceae", and I would like to quote from page 4 of that most celebrated work:

"I am deeply indebted to Mr. Karl Jakob, without whose kind cooperation this thesis would have been submitted one hour and 35 minutes later.

While at Berkeley, and perhaps those were among the golden years there, he distinguished himself in many ways, and here the historical record may need some careful and detailed verification. But there are stories about an egg being mailed through the Post Office to Phyllis Gardner and the sword through his (Reid's) head at Halloween.

Following Berkeley, Dr. Moran did a number of good things in the contemporary commendable "post doctoral" tradition. And in 1957 he became Curator of Botany at the San Diego Museum of Natural History, a position which he has filled ever since. His long-standing interest in the flora and vegetation of Mexico, with emphasis on Baja California, began to blossom. For instance, his attention to details resulted in significant papers on range extensions. In 1962 he published his now classical paper on *Cneoridium dumosum*. The title of this paper is: *"Cneoridium dumosum* (Nuttall) Hooker f. collected March 26, 1960, at an elevation of about 1450 meters on Cerro Quemazón, 15 miles south of Bahía de los Angeles, Baja California, México, apparently for a southeastward range extension of some 140 miles." (Madroño 16:272. 1962.) The text of the paper is: "I got it there then(8068)". The acknowledgments go on for some 29 lines (8 pt. type), and I will quote only the last sentence: "Last but not least, I cannot fail to mention my deep indebtedness to my parents, without whose early cooperation this work would never have been possible." This cooperation would appear to have occurred in 1915!

Dr. Moran is also an expert in the families Cactaceae and Crassulaceae, and he recently described a new genus and species in the latter family with Jorge Meyrán: *"Tacitus bellus,* un nuevo género y especie de Crassulaceae de Chihuahua, México." (Cactácea y Suculentas Mexicanas 19:75–84. 1974.) I quote further: "The genus is named not for the Roman historian or emperor but for the peculiar form of the corolla—from the Latin word *tacitus,* meaning silent. The corolla is scarcely more silent than in most other plants; but compared with that of near relatives, it is very close-mouthed." (Page 82.) Is there perhaps something autobiographical in everything one writes? In the generic description itself, one finds a compelling example of Dr. Moran's compassion: *"Tacitus* Moran: genus novum mexicanum,

[1] The Editors of Madroño, with concurrence of Dr. Thomas and the Council of the California Botanical Society, take special pleasure in sharing with the membership this part of the annual meeting of the Society.—Eds.

Graptopetalo Rose proximum, a quo calycis segmentis reflexis, corollae ore clauso sementisque concoloribus basi angustatis enatioaibus ornatis, fiilamentis aetate non reflexis, stylis elongatis differt. Pax vobiscum. Herba perennis succulenta glabra. . . ." (Page 76.) And so on for 13 more lines of impeccable Latin prose.

Well, I would cite many more examples of Dr. Moran's contributions and philanthropies, but perhaps it is time to let him tell us about the "PLANT LIFE OF BAJA CALIFORNIA".

NEW OR RENOVATED POLEMONIACEAE FROM BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO (IPOMOPSIS, LINANTHUS, NAVARRETIA)

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In collecting in Baja California I have found three Polemoniaceae that seem to be unnamed, three whose generic position needs changing, and a few otherwise worth noting. The first set of my specimens is in the herbarium of the San Diego Society of Natural History (SD); duplicates will be distributed. In this account, my field numbers are prefixed with "M". I am grateful to Drs. Alva Day and Charles H. Uhl for chromosome counts and to Dr. Day also for the drawings and for reviewing this paper. Also, I thank the curators at POM, RSA, UC, and US for the loan of specimens, and at GH for photographs.

Ipomopsis

In his reclassification of the Polemoniaceae, Grant (1959) maintained *Ipomopsis* Michx. as a genus distinct from *Gilia* R. & P., with the expanded limits he had proposed before (Grant, 1956). Between these two rather large and variable groups he found general differences in duration, leaf distribution, leaf texture and dissection, flowering season, corolla form and venation, seed size and shape, etc.; and despite some specific exceptions, the two genera appear distinct. He also found a supporting cytological difference: *Ipomopsis* has a basic chromosome number of $x = 7$, as in *Eriastrum* and *Langloisia,* whereas *Gilia* has $x = 9$ as in *Navarretia, Leptodactylon,* and *Linanthus.* Thus *Ipomopsis* seems well maintained in this expanded sense.

Asa Gray named three species of *Loeselia* from the Sierra Juárez of northern Baja California: *L. effusa* (1876), *L. tenuifolia* (1876), and *L. guttata* (1885). He placed them in their own section, Giliopsis, "connecting with Gilia". Gray (1886) transferred all three to *Gilia* section Ipomopsis (Michx.) Benth.; but Brand (1907) and Standley (1924) kept them in *Loeselia,* and likewise Jepson (1943) and Mason (1951) kept in *Loeselia* the one species extending into Alta [upper] California. Grant (1959) defined *Loeselia* to exclude these species, placing *L. effusa* in *Gilia* section Giliastrum Brand, *L. tenuifolia* in *Ipomopsis* section